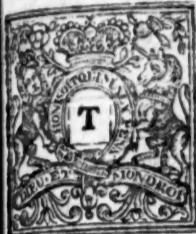


The Daily Gazetteer.

MONDAY, MAY 17. 1736.

91: 277.

Reflections concerning some late Papers in the Craftsman.



HE worthy Writer of the *Craftsman* assuming an Air of Triumph on the Disinclination of his Adversaries to wrangle with him on Points of Debate, wherein all Mankind are agreed, insults one of the Writers against him, for having withdrawn himself from this Paper; and another, (because as the Gentleman expresses it) he seems to be off his Speed.

I confess, from the Experience which I have had of Controversies, that I have ever thought the Writers of the *Craftsman* to be the most impatient of Contradiction, and the most unrelenting in their Fury, of all that ever I read in my Life. I have seen the most embitter'd Enmity, by Length of Time subdued, and the most vindictive personal Enemies reconciled, at least to good Humour and gentle Behaviour to each other. But I

never yet saw that Paper in the *Craftsman*, which treated the Person, whom it opposed, or animadverted on, with the smallest Degree of Decency or good Nature. And I lately have seen in that Paper, Persons abused, not only because they opposed him, but because they cease to oppose him. When Controversy seems to be worn out; when all other Writers are tired, with inferring an everlasting Railer; when the World, in general, desire to forget Animosities, and to enjoy Peace: The Love of Wrangling for Wrangling Sake, seems implanted in the Author of the *Craftsman*, who writes with a Resolution to abuse every one that answers him, and every one that does not answer him; at the same Time, that he writes with that peculiar Strain of Argument, which carries its Answer along with it, and leaves the opposite Party the Trouble of any Reply.

FAR be it from me, to desire the worthy Gentleman to withdraw himself from the Publick, or to break off that imitable Course of Writing, which hath so many Years been carried on, so much to the Advantage of Authors, Printers, and Publishers; so much to the Entertainment and Instruction of Men, Women, and Children; and so little to the Damage of the Administration, that, I believe in my Conscience, the Writers might go on in the same Course, and for any thing to be expected from their Writings, they would find the Ministry Ten Years hence, in the same Condition as they first found them in Ten Years ago.

But as little Envy, or Apprehension of Danger, as I can have with Regard to these formidable Authors, I will not enter into any Articles with them to answer them, unless they can, at least, bring a Certificate, that somebody reads them; and if any Man confined to his Chamber, by a Dose of Physick, or the like Misfortune, may be supposed sometimes to take up a *Graffman*, yet I will not take his Word, even on that Point, unless it comes attested under the Hand of his Nurse.

WITHIN several Weeks past, I have not seen one Paper in the *Craftsman*, which could admit of Controversy, that would ever bear the reading; and, I do not wonder, that any Man should be off his Speed, when he attempts to Remark upon a Writer, who goes on with the Repetition of Abuse, wherein he hath neither Vivacity enough to make it entertaining, nor Variety enough to make it appear new; but blot his Paper, Week after Week, with the Droppings of his superannuated Malice, and the Dregs of his impotent Remonstrances.

The last *Craftsman* is writ by the Name of Mrs. Dorothy D'Arvers, and in the Person of an Old Woman, with particular Directions to the Reader, lest he should mistake her to be a Young one. How needless was this, when every Part of the Paper must have betrayed the Age and Sex of the Writer, though this indecent Diligence had not been employ'd to expose them. The famous Sentence, *Videri vult pauper & est pauper*, was never more Applicable than on this Occasion. And the learned Author, by a Fate too common, with those who never know when to leave off, hath talked of Old Age and Old Women, till he hath found himself in the Predicament of both.

Thus, if ever the Female Sex were affronted, (which he seems to admit in one of his late Lucubrations) they may now enjoy the Revenge of it. The Old Woman is so strong upon him, that he will never be able to shake it off; it will grow to him, as Falstaff said of his Knighthood; and the Town may be assured, that let the Author of the *Craftsman* write by ever so many Names, or under ever so many Disguises, it will make a Difference without any Distinction; and this identical Dorothy D'Arvers, will be the specific Writer under every Appearance.

IT hath, indeed, been usual to speak of the Author of the *Craftsman*, as one Person, when the whole Town were acquainted with several Persons, frequently employ'd in that Paper. And the Reason of this might be, that ONE was known to have the inferior Management of it, wholly to himself, tho' SEVERAL were pleased to charge themselves with the superior Parts; of whose Abilities for great Affairs, and of whose Talents in writing, the Publick have had such Experience, that had there been as little Doubt of their good Intentions, as of their Parts and Capacities, they would probably have had as few to oppose them, as there have been many to admire them.

IN the Conduct of their Writings, the Passions which set them to work betrayed them, upon many Occasions, into such Excesses, as equally provoked and justified many severe Replies; and, made the Presses groan with Controversies, as much to be lamented, whilst they continued, as they ought to be avoided with Reference to all future Occasions.

BUT though the Animosities of great Men were a justifiable Cause for Debates of this Nature; tho', by Reason of the fatal Impression which the Works of ingenious Malice were likely to make, it became necessary to resist them in the most vigorous Manner; I persuade myself, that it can neither be useful nor necessary to make the same Returns, in answer to the lowest of their Implements, as were made to the Greatest of their Party; and, when the Two HONOURABLE PATRONS of the Cause have long since declined the Debate of it, I am apt to think, that no Man, who can better employ himself, will scribble in Correspondence with Mrs. Dorothy D'Arvers, or scold with the Author of the *London Evening Post*.

IN Times of great Anxiety and Uncertainty, when the Divisions of Parliament run high, or when the Minds of the People are in any considerable Ferment, the Publick are constantly entertained, by many eloquent Pens; and the Novelty, or Importance of the Subject may prompt others to Reply: But when there is the greatest Unanimity in Parliament, and the greatest Tranquillity amongst the People, that ever was known in any Times, it must be from an inexcuseable Vanity, or Petulance of Temper, that Men can perfid in Controversies, when the Occasion of them is over; and, to publish Answers and Replies, when there is no Adversary worthy of being replied to, may properly be called fighting with a Shadow.

THERE are two Ways of serving a Government, worthy to be served. The one Way, by defending it against the Malice of Men able to hurt it: The other Way, by despising the Infidelity of those who are not able to hurt it. But to gratify the restless Imperfidence of little Scribblers, or to assist their infamous Abuse, by entering into needless Controversies, which can only serve to renew the Occasions of their Scurrilities, and warrant them to repeat their scandalous Invectives. — This is not serving a Government, but from its Effect, must injure that Government, by assisting the base of its Enemies to insult it.

NOR let this be understood, as inciting any Man to decline a Service, which can neither discredit the best Abilities, or the fairest Reputation; but let it be construed, as it is meant, to justify a decent Contempt of a despicable Enemy. It is not Valour to waste Strength when it is not wanted; it is not Wisdom to be ostentatious of Abilities, where the Display of them is not required: But it is brave to defend a good Cause, when it is in Danger; and wise to condemn its Enemies, when it is in Safety.

I must own, that I thought, and others were of the same Opinion, that All was in Danger, and the Being of a Kingdom at Stake, in the Close of the last Session of Parliament. The War was then spread-

ing in the Bowels of the Empire; and, the Factions of this Country were almost able to bear down the lawful Power of the Crown. In such a Conjunction, if any Man, by writing, could conciliate the divided, or animate the dispirited; if he could vindicate the Measures which were taken for the publick Safety, or expose the Arts which were intended to shake it, he could not better serve his Country, than by Writings of this kind. But, since the Peace of Europe is perfectly restored, and the Animosities of this Nation are entirely allay'd; since that MAN, whose Iniquity we had so much in Detestation, and whose Ambition we had so much Reason to dread, hath withdrawn himself into another Country; and, since the Associates of his Opposition have grown milder in their Sentiments, calmer in their Spirits, and better disposed to acquiesce in that Administration, which they have attack'd in vain: Since these are our present Circumstances, I do not conceive myself warranted to keep up Quarrels in Print, which are declined every where else, or to litigate Points with so low an Adversary as this, who is now calling upon us, over whom a Victory would be inglorious, and a Triumph disgraceful.

FOR myself, I must acknowledge, that I have shared, perhaps too largely, in the Altercations of Parties, and in the Debates about Persons. Concerning the Manner, I can only say, that what I said was from the Heart; and for the Matter, it was from my own Observation, or other Men's Information. In Facts, I may have sometimes err'd; in Judgment, often; but never advanced, at the Time of advancing it, what I did not believe to be true; and, if at any Time have spoken, with Warmth or Harshness, the Nature of the Controversy, or the Temper of the Season, was the real Occasion of the Excess. For, I may, as Sir WALTER RALEIGH said of himself, protest before the Majesty of God that I malice no Man; and, I cannot be called upon, to give a better Proof of a candid Disposition to all Men, than by avoiding Strife when the Cause of it is over, and by rejoicing in their Quiet, when they do not disturb the Tranquility of their Country.

EVEN with relation to my worthy Bretbren of the Quill, I could have wished, that as for the Reputation of their Cause, they at first thought it necessary to abuse their Adversaries, they would at last think it for their own Reputation, to use them more decently. One Paper in the *Craftsman* is angry, that a Gentleman hath left off writing in this Paper; and therefore abuses him. In another Paper, another Person is treated as a Wretch, and with the like civil Appeals, for having, when called upon, given an Answer to the *Craftsman*. And because he writ with that Coolness, which could give no Provocation, he is said, in the last *Craftsman*, to be cold and lifeless: so that he is abused, though he doth not provoke, and abused because he will not be provoked.

OR all this silly Infidelity, Contempt is the proper Punishment; and, for my own Part, I do so heartily despise it, that I beg the worthy Author not to leave it off, on any Account; but if my Name can add to his Triumphs, I will freely, in Charity to a Paper which hath seen better Days, consent, that the *Craftsman* may keep up the Spirit of his Writings, with as much Abuse upon mine, as his Wit can supply, or his good Nature delight in.

AND, as fond as he is, upon all Occasions, of bringing Great Names into Contest, as the Patrons of these Papers, I will honestly acquit all the World of any Suspicions on Account of his; and whatever he may publish, he shall, if he pleases, print my Testimonial along with it, *that it is all his own*.

BUT, he cannot in Conscience expect, that I should answer him, when I cannot convict him of any possible Meaning, or accuse him of any dangerous Intention. When he writes to be understood, or alarms any one by what he writes, I will give him an Answer, to the best of my Ability, such as the Nature of the Subject may require,

AND, in all other Cases, I will have so much Difference to the Understanding of the Reader, as to imagine, that what the most ordinary Apprehension must see to be absurd, doth not want elaborate Reasonings to shew its Absurdity.

LAST

LASTLY, as to the Reflection, upon any one, of being off his Speed, I take it, that this cannot appear, till he hath some Occasion to shew his Speed: But as I conceive, the Race is at present over, I beg leave to breathe a little, till we are called upon to begin again.

Hague, May 23. N. S.

THE States of Holland have adjusted some of their Domestick Affairs that had long lain under their Consideration, having resolved to grant the North Hollanders a Sum of 600000 Florins, towards repairing their Dikes, and 400000 to the Town of Gorcum, for consenting that a Branch of the Macle may be conveyed to Dort, to augment the Waters there. This Morning came Advice from Berlin, that King Stanislaus arrived there the 16th Instant, in his Way to France. His Excellency Mr. Walpole having received Orders from England is preparing to attend the King his Master to Hanover. To Day the States were desired to give Directions for the Guards that are to attend his Majesty in his Passage thro' their Territories, to repair to their respective Stations on the Road.

L O N D O N .

Some Accounts by the last Mail say, the Emperor of China, who was hated by his Subjects for Cruelty and Avarice, is dead, and succeeded by his Son, who is universally beloved. — That on the 19th of last Month, the Count de Munich caused the City of St Asoph to be summoned, and allowed it a Fortnight's Time to consider of it. — That the Imperialists are in full Possession of the Dutchies of Parma and Placentia. — And that Don Carlos, in Resentment for the Tumults of the Populace at Rome, has sequestered in the Kingdom of Naples the Revenues of Cardinal Barberini, the Constable Colonna, Prince Borghesi, and the Duke of Sforza Cesarini, who are the best Families in Rome.

Yesterday their Majesties, the Prince and Princes of Wales, and the Princesses Amelia and Caroline, went with the usual State to the Royal Chapel at St. James's, and heard Divine Service performed by the Rev. Mr. Chamberlaine; and his Grace the Duke of Portland carried the Sword of State before his Majesty,

Last Saturday their Majesties, the Duke, and Princesses went to Richmond and Kew, and in the Evening returned to St. James's.

On Thursday last a Gentleman unknown, gave 1000 l. to the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, 1000 l. to the Augmentation of poor Livings, 1000 l. to the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, for the Benefit of poor Widows, and 500 l. for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge.

On Monday last died very suddenly the Rev. Mr. Longmore, Rector of All Saints in the City of Worcester; the Living is in the Gift of the Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor.

Last Friday the Gentlemen Freeholders, &c. of the General Quarter Sessions for the County of Essex, waited on his Majesty with their congratulatory Address on the Royal Nuptials.

The Rev. Dr. John Wilcox, Vicar of Kensington, and formerly Fellow of Clare-Hall in Cambridge, is elected Master of the said College.

This Day the Vice-Chancellor, Heads and principal Members of the University of Cambridge, are to wait on their Majesties and the Royal Family, with their Address and Poetical Congratulations, on Occasion of the late happy Marriage.

We hear that one Elizabeth Williams, the Wife of John Williams, was on Saturday last convicted before Col. Deveil of having bought a private Centinel's Regimental Coat and Waistcoat of the first Regiment of Foot Guards, commanded by the Right Hon. Sir Charles Wills, and paid the Five Pounds Conviction-Money.

B A N K R U P T S .

Samuel Edge, of Worley, in the County of Lancaster, Maltster.

Charles Houghton, of the Parish of St. Martin in the Fields, in the County of Middlesex, Peruke-maker.

Saturday Bank Stock was 148. India 175. South Sea 98 1 8th to 1 4th. Old Annuity 111 3 8ths. New ditto, 111 1 8th to 1 4th. Three per Cent. 104 3 8ths. Emperor's Loan 116 5 8th. Royal Assurance 108 1 half. London-Assurance 14 1 8th to 1 half. York Buildings 2. African 11. India Bonds 61. 4s. to 6s. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto 51. 4s. Premium. South Sea Bonds 51. 14s. Premium. New Bank Circulation 71. 2 s 6d. Premium. Salt Tallies 4 to 6 Premium. English Copper 21. 3s. Welsh ditto, no Price. Three 1 half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 5 1 half to 6 per Cent. Premium. Million Bank 114.

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